

PROTECTING CONNECTICUT FAMILIES



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- Stop property takings for private development
- Protect our children from drugs, sex offenders, and violence
- Eliminate the income tax on pensions
- Eliminate the estate tax
- Cut the state tax on electric bills
- Fully fund Teachers' Retirement System
- Overhaul the state's unfair education funding system
- Close purposeful loopholes in campaign finance law
- Adopt a pure clean contracting bill
- Keep citizens' personal and financial records private



*Connecticut
House Republicans*

Protecting Connecticut Families

2006 House Republican Caucus Agenda



- **Reform Eminent Domain:**

- Repeal laws that allow government to take property for private economic development use. This is supported by 91% of the people in Connecticut; we may wait a lifetime to see such accord on another issue.

- **Protect Our Children:**

- Increase penalties and monitoring for sex offenders
 - Greater Classification of Offenders
 - More severe penalties for not registering
 - Early risk assessment board
 - GPS monitoring for persons who committed high-level crimes (Periodic Reassessment)
 - Require treatment as a condition of release
 - DNA testing for convicted felons; make it a felony to refuse to submit to DNA testing
 - Notification of other state agencies and local police of address changes
 - Require offenders to register before they leave prison
 - Include photos on the registry
- Strengthen regulation of ingredients used to manufacture crystal methamphetamine.
- Provide \$1 million to fund the State Firearms Trafficking Task Force.

- **Eliminate Pension Income Tax:**

- Phase-out the income tax that applies to pensions and other retirement plans.

- **Eliminate Estate Tax**

- Eliminate the estate tax, which is an unfair double taxation of people's hard-earned money, and it encourages people to pack up and move out of state.

- **Cut Tax on Electric Bills:**
 - Reduce the gross receipts tax assessed on energy utility bills from 8.5% to 5% for commercial and industrial customers and from 6.8% to 4% for residential customers. This is one way to provide immediate relief for Connecticut families.
- **Fully Fund Teachers' Retirement:**
 - Enact a constitutional amendment to require full funding of the Teachers' Retirement System. Let's address this problem now, instead of mortgaging our children's futures.
- **Overhaul Education Funding System**
 - Rather than talking about all the things wrong with school funding, it's easier to say that it does not have one single redeeming quality. Everyone can agree on that.
- **Close Loopholes in Campaign Finance Bill:**
 - Eliminate provisions that were designed by Democrats to lock out third-party candidates.
 - Remove the union-friendly loophole that allows unlimited in-kind contributions.
 - Eliminate the over-reliance on undocumented, unlimited campaign spending by gatekeeper leadership PACs.
- **Adopt Pure Clean Contracting Reform:**
 - Allow a vote on a pure clean contracting bill without the offensive provision that could lead to the unionization of almost all people who provide state services.
- **Keep Personal Information Private:**
 - Prohibit the legislature from gaining access to individual income tax records.
 - Protect citizens by prohibiting the invasive sale of cell phone calling records.



News Release

Connecticut House Republicans

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Rep. Robert Ward
Phone: 1-800-842-1423

Contact Pat O'Neil
Office 240-0094

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TAX CUTS, EMINENT DOMAIN, PENSION PROTECTION DOMINATE GOP AGENDA

HARTFORD – House Republicans today unveiled an aggressive legislative agenda that provides tax relief for pensioners and estates, protects homeowners from eminent domain and lower their electric bills.

Republicans also want to close loopholes in last year's landmark campaign finance reform bill, crack down on sex offenders and spread out state education funds more evenly among towns and cities that are penalized under the current school funding formula.

Minority Leader Robert M. Ward of North Branford said most of the proposals to be raised during the short legislative session that starts next week center on issues critical to working families, seniors and small businesses.

“House Republicans believe in protecting taxpayers and homeowners from an overreaching government intent on interfering with their ability to provide for and safeguard their family and property and live a reasonably comfortable retirement,” Ward said. “We have made ‘family security’ a hallmark for this short session, whether it is paycheck protection, eminent domain, or getting tough on sex offenders.”

The nine-point agenda included:

- Repeal of eminent domain laws to prevent government from seizing private property to hand over to a private developer. The issue gained national attention following the U.S. Supreme Court's Kelo decision last year in the case involving New London residents. “Property ownership is a fundamental right that must be preserved,” Ward said.
- Phasing in elimination of income taxes on all pensions. Wards and others said proving relief for those on fixed incomes is a priority.
- Rolling back residential utility rate taxes by 42 percent.

- Approving a constitutional requirement to fully fund teacher pensions.
- Eliminating the estate tax that will hasten the outward migration of many residents to states that don't have estate taxes.
- Getting tough on sex offenders through harsher sentencing and greater monitoring as well as longer penalties for not registering.
- Closing the campaign finance loophole that allows legislative leaders to funnel unlimited amounts of money and resources into targeted campaigns with little or no oversight. Republicans were angered that the provision was snuck into the final version of the bill last year when the publicly financed campaign measure was presented.
- Implementing "honest" state contracting reforms without the "poison pill" amendment that public employee unions demanded of the Democratic majority last year. Republicans insist that the contracting reforms would have passed easily without the union provision that would have forced some non-profits out of business.
- Fixing the broken Education Cost Sharing formula that favors the biggest cities controlled by the Democrats over scores of suburban and rural municipalities.

Ward said a comprehensive job creation agenda will be released in the next few days that includes additional tax relief and incentives for businesses large and small.

"There is much to get done in the next three months and I hope we can reach consensus on many of these issues. We have an obligation as elected officials to craft honest budgets and make the right decisions for all Connecticut residents," Ward said